

(ii) said cellulose acetate contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of an acid having an acid dissociation exponent pKa of 1.93 to 4.50 in water, an alkali metal salt of said acid and an alkaline earth metal salt of said acid; and

(iii) said cellulose acetate contains an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal, wherein the total content of the alkali metal and the alkaline earth metal in 1 gram of the cellulose acetate is  $5.5 \times 10^{-6}$  equivalent or less in terms of ion equivalent; and

wherein said cellulose acetate is soluble in an organic solvent.

#### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 and 15-22 have been examined. The above amendments change the text of claim 1 by adding subject matter supported by the specification at page 26, lines 13-14; page 27, lines 8-9; page 28, lines 9-10; page 23, lines 11-15; and page 24, lines 13-17. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

#### **Rejection under 35 USC § 103(a)**

Claims 1-13 and 15-22 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii et al. (US 3,816,150). Claims 18-21 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being